but to the elderly, the sick including those isolated by HIV or AIDS, and those suffering hardship through alcohol or drug dependency or who are in prison. Although I think of myself as trying to keep up with this subject, I must say I was struck by the sheer scale of the effort which has been detailed in recent reports published under the auspices of the Federation of Irish Societies. These show a level of concern and understanding which finds practical expression every day through these agencies and gives true depth to the meaning of the word cherish.

When I was a student, away from home, and homesick for my family and my friends and my country, I walked out one evening and happened to go into a Boston newsagent's shop. There, just at the back of the news stand, almost to my disbelief, was ''The Western People.'' I will never forget the joy with which I bought it and took it back with me and found, of course, that the river Moy was still there and the Cathedral was still standing. I remember the hunger with which I read the news from home. I know that story has a thousand versions. But I also know it has a single meaning. Part of cherishing must be communication. The journey which an Irish newspaper once made to any point outside Ireland was circumscribed by the limits of human travel. In fact, it replicated the slow human journey through ports and on ships and airplanes. Now that journey can be transformed, through modern on-line communications, into one of almost instantaneous arrival.

We are at the centre of an adventure in human information and communication greater than any other since the invention of the printing press. We will see our lives changed by that. We still have time to influence the process and I am glad to see that we in Ireland are doing this. In some cases this may merely involve drawing attention to what already exists. The entire Radio 1 service of RTE is now transmitted live over most of Europe on the Astra satellite. In North America we have a presence through the Galaxy satellite. There are several internet providers in Ireland and bulletin boards with community database throughout the island. The magic of E-mail surmounts time and distance and cost. And the splendid and relatively recent technology of the World Wide Web means that local energies and powerful opportunities of access are being made available on the information highway.

The shadow of departure will never be lifted. The grief of seeing a child or other family member leave Ireland will always remain sharp and the absence will never be easy to bear. But we can make their lives easier if we use this new technology to being the news from home. As a people, we are proud of our story-telling, our literature, our theatre, our ability to improvise with words. And there is a temptation to think that we put that at risk if we espouse these new forms of communications. In fact we can profoundly enrich the method of contact by the means of expression, and we can and should—as a people who have a painful historic experience of silence and absence—welcome and use the noise, the excitement, the speed of contact and the sheer exuberance of these new forms.

This is the second time I have addressed the two Houses of the Oireachtas as provided under the Constitution. I welcome the opportunity it has given me to highlight this important issue at a very relevant moment for us all. The men and women of our diaspora represent not simply a series of departures and losses. They remain, even while absent, a precious reflection of our own growth and change, a precious reminder of the many strands of identity which compose our story. They have come, either now or in the past, from Derry and Dublin and Cork and Belfast. They know the names of our townlands and villages. They remember our landscape or they have heard of it. They look at us anxiously to include them in our sense of ourselves and not to forget their contribution while we make our own. The debate about how to best engage their contribution with our own has many aspects and offers opportunities for new structures and increased contact.

If I have been able to add something to this process of reflection and to encourage a more practical expression of the concerns we share about our sense of ourselves at home and abroad then I am grateful to have had your attention here today. Finally, I know this Oireachtas will agree with me that the truest way of cherishing our diaspora is to offer them, at all times, the reality of this island as a place of peace where the many diverse traditions in which so many of them have their origins, their memories, their hopes are bound together in tolerance and understanding.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA WARD-WILLIAMS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated servant of the people of the United States. Linda Ward-Williams, who has an outstanding record of public service, was tragically killed in an auto accident February 7, 1995, near the family home of Fishtail, MT. She is survived by her husband, Burt, and her parents, Thomas and Ethel Ward of Hysham, MT. Burt Williams is currently with the Bureau of Land Management.

According to the Billings Gazette,

Linda was definitely an individual. She was born June 12, 1947, the daughter of Tom and Ethel Ward, and attended schools in Hysham, Billings and Missoula in Montana, culminating in a master's degree in anthropology at the University of Colorado, working toward a Ph.D.

Linda started professional life as an Old World archaeologist and worked on projects in Israel and Western Europe. She gave up the allure of the Old World and settled into Western U.S. archaeology when she married her husband in 1971.

Linda as an archaeologist, started her career with the Bureau of Land Management in 1978. She moved to the Bureau of Reclamation in 1979. She began her work as a forest ranger for the U.S. Forest Service in 1987 and was elevated to district ranger at the Beartooth Ranger District, Red Lodge, MT, in 1989.

Federal land managers have the most challenging positions of all the public service jobs in the West. They are constantly being challenged by resource managers and users, special interest groups, and folks who know very little about natural resource management but think they do, especially the great renewable resources found on our Nation's national forests. She met those challenges with intelligence and judgment. I did not always agree with her but she gave the full measure of thought before every decision.

The State of Montana has lost a friend, the Nation has lost a dedicated public servant. In the great tradition of those who are tied to the land in this country, there will be those who will follow in her footsteps with the same degree of dedication. That is how it should be and how she would have it.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, a constituent of mine, Clyde Edwin Pettit, was a member of the staff of the late Senator J. William Fulbright. Mr. Pettit went to Vietnam as a foreign correspondent and made many distinguished radio broadcasts from there in 1965 and 1966. He was one of the very first Americans to predict that the United States would not prevail in that tragic undertaking. He wrote what Senator Fulbright called a long and prescient letter * * * from Saigon that was a substantial influence upon my long opposition to America's adventure in Indochina. Mr. Pettit has written a moving and eloquent tribute to Senator Fulbright.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the eulogy to which I have referred and a letter of introduction Senator Fulbright wrote regarding Clyde Pettit be inserted in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BILL FULBRIGHT—AN APPRECIATION

Senator J. William Fulbright is dead.

He was, in every sense, an American original.

A small-town boy, who was both a scholar and triple-threat halfback on the Razorback football team at the University of Arkansas, he became, almost by chance, a Rhodes scholar in England.

Later, while a law professor, he became president of the University of Arkansas—the youngest college president in the country.

He backed into politics almost accidently, running for the House of Representatives and winning.

In Congress in 1943 he revived the concept of the League of Nations, but a more effective one. This was the Fulbright Resolution pledging U.S. membership for a future United Nations. Arkansas made Fulbright a Democrat. Europe made him an internationalist.

After his Rhodes scholarship experience, he wanted other young men and women to have the educational opportunities he had. In 1945 he had a unique idea: the world was awash with surplus war materiel. The secretary of state could dispose of assets outside the U.S. in return for foreign credits. Since none of the countries involved had dollars to pay for the materiel, why not exchange it for credits and use them for an educational exchange program? The idea became the internationally celebrated Fulbright Act. Since that time, approximately 220,000 young scholarship students have traversed the globe—the greatest cross-pollination of learning in the history of the world.

Few remember that he cast the single vote in the Senate in 1954 against funding Senator Joe McCarthy's witchhunting subcommittee. McCarthy called Fulbright a communist sympathizer, referring to him as ''Senator Halfbright.'' Fulbright: ''I can only say that his manner and his methods were offensive to me. I thought him to be a demagogue and a ruthless boor.'' He said McCarthy had ''done more harm to the United States than